

ADULT SKULL

- Vomer: Thin, blade-shaped bone that forms the inferior plates of the palatine bones.
- Sphenoid: Bat-shaped bone that is described as the keystone bone of the cranium because it articulates with all other cranial bones.
- Styloid Process: Needle-like projection that serves as an attachment point for ligaments and muscles of the neck.
- Mandibular Fossa: Located on the inferior surface of the zygomatic process; receives the condylar process of the mandible to form the temporomandibular joint.
- Condylar Fossa: A depression which receives the posterior margin of the superior facet of the atlas when the head is bent back.
- Lambdoid Suture: Occurs where the parietal bones meet the occipital bone posteriorly.
- Palatine Bone: Forms the anterior hard palate; meet anteriorly in the intermaxillary suture.
- Stylomastoid Foramen: Tiny opening between the mastoid and styloid processes through which cranial nerve VII leaves the cranium.
- Occipital Condyle: Rounded projections lateral to the foramen magnum that articulate with the first cervical vertebra.
- Foramen Magnum: Large opening in the base of the bone, which allows the spinal cord to join with the brain stem.